

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 and 17-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 8 are amended. Support for amendments to claims 1 and 8 can be found, at least, in Fig. 3 and in the specification, for example, at page 13, line 25 to page 14, line 5. Thus, no new matter is added.

I. 35 U.S.C. §102(e) Rejection of Claims 1, 8 and 17

Claims 1, 8 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,752,716 to Nishimura et al. (hereinafter "Nishimura"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Nishimura does not teach or suggest every feature of claims 1, 8 and 17. Nishimura does not disclose a vibration condition setting section which performs processing for accepting a vibration condition setting which specifies the vibration occurrence simulation state, in accordance with an operational input from an operating section for specifying during simulation a vibration condition setting, as recited in amended independent claim 1. Further, Nishimura does not disclose performing processing for accepting a vibration condition setting, which specifies the vibration occurrence simulation state, in accordance with an operational input from an operating section for specifying during simulation a vibration condition setting, as recited in amended independent claim 8.

The Office Action, referring to col. 9 of Nishimura, asserts that Nishimura discloses the claimed vibration condition setting section and vibration condition setting (see Office Action, page 2, item 2). These assertions are respectfully traversed.

Nishimura merely discloses that the CPU 101 of Nishimura supplies vibration generation commands to the vibration generator 7a based on current condition of a vehicle and a table during simulation (see Nishimura, col. 9 lines 5-65). Nishimura does not disclose a vibration condition setting section that accepts a vibration condition setting in accordance

with an input from an operating section for specifying during simulation a vibration condition setting, as recited in amended independent claim 1, and as similarly recited in amended independent claim 8.

For at least these reasons, independent claims 1 and 8 are patentable over Nishimura. Further, claim 17, which depends from claim 8, is also patentable over Nishimura for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 8, as well as for additional features it recites. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

II. 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection

Claims 2-4, 9-11 and 18-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nishimura in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,300,936 to Braun et al. (hereinafter "Braun 1"); and claims 5-7 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nishimura in view of Braun 1 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,252,583 to Braun et al. (hereinafter "Braun 2"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Nishimura does not teach or suggest every feature of independent claims 1 and 8. Braun 1 and Braun 2 do not remedy the deficiencies discussed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 8. Braun 1 is cited by the Office Action for only its alleged teaching of displaying a vibration condition setting image (see Office Action, page 3). Braun 2 is cited by the Office Action for only its alleged teaching of a plurality of vibration occurrence states occur simultaneously that cause the vibration mechanism to vibrate (see Office Action, page 5).

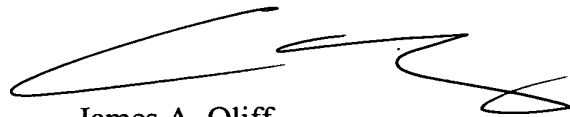
For at least these reasons, independent claims 1 and 8 are patentable over Nishimura, Braun 1 and Braun 2. Further, claims 2-7, 9-14 and 17-22, which variously depend from independent claims 1 and 8, are also patentable over Nishimura, Braun 1 and Braun 2, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 8. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Gang Luo
Registration No. 50,559

JAO:PQW/lmf

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: July 7, 2008

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--